

US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY Region 1 New England - OEME 11 Technology Drive, North Chelmsford, MA 01863

Inspection Report

Date: November 20, 2013

Subject: Allendale Farm - Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO)

Inspection

Prepared by: Lisa Thuot – USEPA Compliance Inspector

I. Facility Information:

Name: Allendale Farm LP Location: 2357 Jersey Street

Panton, VT 05491

Owner/Operator: Claudia Allen, Owner

Mailing Address: 2357 Jersey Street

Panton, VT 05491

II. Inspection Information:

Date of Inspection: September 19, 2013

EPA Inspector(s): Lisa Thuot – Compliance Inspector (EPA Region 1/OEME)

Diane Boisclair – Compliance Inspector (EPA Region 1/OES)

Facility Contact(s)

During Inspection: Claudia Allen, Owner

Joe and Becky Allen, Partial Co-owners

State Contact(s): Katie Gehr, Vermont Agency of Agriculture

Weather Conditions: Approx. 63°F

III. Purpose of Inspection:

The purpose of the inspection was to assess applicability of and compliance with the CAFO requirements under the Clean Water Act at 40 C.F.R. Part 122.23.

Entry Procedures

The inspection was announced in advance by telephone to Claudia Allen. At the start of the inspection, EPA staff presented their inspector credentials to Ms. Allen, who provided a tour of the farm. Upon arrival, we were introduced to Joe and Becky Allen, but they did not accompany us during the inspection and farm tour.

IV. Inspection Information/Findings

Allendale Farm LP ("the farm") is a dairy operation owned by the Allen family. Claudia Allen is the primary business owner (83%) with the remainder owned by Joe and Becky Allen. There are approximately 400 mature milking and dry cows, and 350 youngstock including calves. The farm size is around 1,000 acres, including 800 acres of corn and hay crops. Manure is land-applied four times per year (on average) by an outside company. Town water is supplied for animal drinking, which is added to water tubs in the barns.

The heifer freestall barn is scraped directly into the manure pit. The calf barn holds youngstock until the age of 9 months. The calf bedding pack is cleaned out weekly and spread on fields. Some woody vegetation was observed on the banks of the manure pit which required removal.

A concrete barnyard is located directly outside of the main barn (picture #1). At the southern end of the barnyard, inspectors observed a drain hole in the barnyard curb. Ms. Allen said runoff during heavy storms may overflow from the concrete barnyard, and said the barnyard needs to be drained in winter to avoid freezing. Barnyard runoff flows through the drain hole and downhill into a small drainage ditch (pictures #2-4). The ditch flows under a dirt road next to the main barn, passes by the young calf barn, and enters a vegetated swale (picture #5). Due to thick vegetation, inspectors could not confirm if any barnyard runoff flows into the manure pit. The vegetated swale flows downhill to the base of a fork in dirt road. If runoff travels over the dirt road from this area, it would enter a roadside drainage ditch located on the east side of the road [ditch #1], which flows north and east to wetlands bordering Dead Creek.

On the back side of the large silage bunker, inspectors observed cracks/breaks in sections of the concrete wall, with some feed leaks in the vegetated area below (pictures #6-7). Drainage from this vegetated area flows downhill to a roadside drainage ditch located on the west of the road [ditch #2], which flows north and east to wetlands bordering Dead Creek (picture #8).

A small silage pile is located in a bunker across from the main barn. During the inspection we observed runoff/leachate from the small pile flowing down the dirt driveway, around an open storage bay shed. Runoff can settle on the dirt driveway and/or flow across to the area behind the large silage bunker which drains to roadside ditch #2 (pictures #9-11).

The animal mortality compost pile is located in a wet area on the edge of the fields, on the east side of the dirt road described above (picture #12). Runoff from the mortality pile can enter the dirt roadside ditch #1 (described above). Katie Gehr said the mortality pile is not located in an area that would be approved by NRCS. Claudia Allen said that NRCS plans to visit the farm in the fall for an evaluation.

Milkhouse wastewater is collected in a precast concrete drainage structure with clean-out access and directed to the manure pit through a 6-inch pipe.

Inspectors did not observe any catch basins or roadside drainage ditches near the farm on Jersey Street. Drainage from the farm's production area generally flows in east/northeast direction.

The baby calf barn is located on the west side of Jersey Street, across from the main farm. Inspectors did not observe any waste management or discharge issues at the baby calf barn, which borders what appear to be two small isolated wetlands.

V. Exit Briefing

EPA inspectors conducted an exit briefing with Claudia Allen, with Katie Gehr also present. The following items were summarized:

- Runoff from the concrete barnyard at the main barn flows into a small ditch and vegetated swale; if runoff flows over the farm's dirt road, it can enter a ditch which flows north and east to wetlands bordering Dead Creek.
- Runoff/leachate from the small and large silage piles flows downhill into a ditch along the farm's dirt road and north and east to wetlands bordering Dead Creek.
- The animal mortality pile is not located in an area that would be approved by NRCS.

Enclosures/Attachments:

Inspection Pictures
Aerial picture map